

Simplified key to coral genera in the wildlife trade (continued)

36. Coral colony with more than one corallite:
- a. corallites are polygonal to circular and pore-like, and are flush with the coenosteum or are depressed; colonies massive or branching **Go to:** 37
 - b. corallites are polygonal to circular and pore-like or flush with coenosteum; colonies are plating or foliaceous 38
37. a. corallite calices 2 mm or less in diameter; corallites have 12 septa *Porites*
- b. corallite calices 2-5 mm in diameter; corallites have 24 septa; polyps with 24 long tentacles *Goniopora*
- c. corallite calices 2-5 mm in diameter; polyps have 12 long tentacles *Alveopora*

Goniopora (1999: over 93,000 pieces in trade, most live; 2nd most common coral traded as live animals)

- “Flower Pot Corals or Daisy Corals” can form crusts, mounds, or columns
- polyps long and tubular with 24 tentacles; extended during daylight
- different species have polyps of different shapes and colors
- corallites are generally uniform and circular in outline
- colonies similar to *Alveopora*, but *Alveopora* polyps have 12 tentacles
- some species completely retract when disturbed, exposing skeletal features
- other species partially retract; polyps are fleshy and cover the skeleton
- this genus is not recommended for aquaria—it will die!



Goniopora

Porites (1999: 21,600 pieces in trade, most live; also 12,000 kg)

- forms some of the largest colonies in the Indo-Pacific, may be massive and hemispherical in shape, branching or may form plates and columns
- colonies similar to *Montipora*, however *Montipora* has characteristic papillae or tuberculae, and lacks radiating septa found in *Porites*
- calices are small, < 2 mm diameter and immersed in the corallum
- paliform lobes form 4-12 vertical pillars that appear as small “eyes” in living corallites
- polyps are short, and are occasionally extended during daylight
- this genus is not recommended for the aquaria - most die in a few months;
- often purchased for colorful attached worms that die once the coral dies

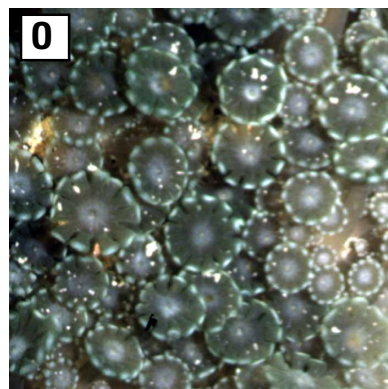


Porites

Alveopora and *Goniopora* have long tubular polyps; *Alveopora* has 12 tentacles on each polyp, while *Goniopora* has 24. Both *Alveopora* and *Porites* corallites have 12 septa, while *Goniopora* has 24; *Porites* always has short tentacles which are usually contracted in the day.

Alveopora (1999: 79 pieces in trade, all live)

- round, massive or submassive morphology; may form branches
- 12 tentacle tips with bulbous or flattened ends (N-O); 12 septa
- tentacles always expanded but may retract (P)

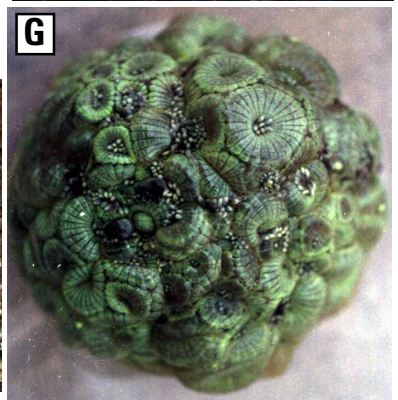
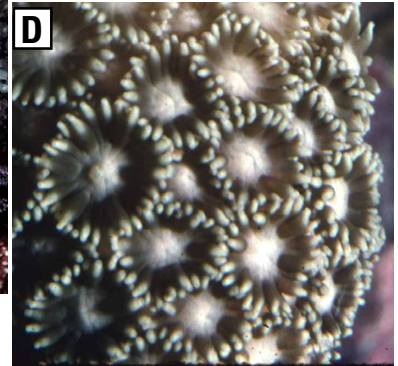


Massive and Branching Corals: Family Poritidae

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Pore-like cerioid corallites

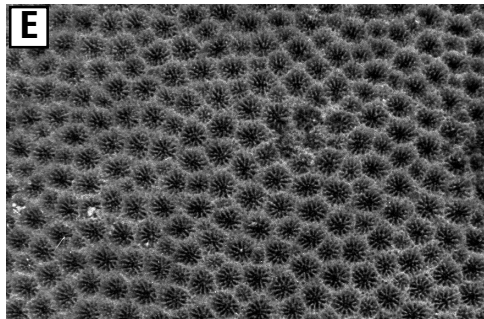
- Goniopora* ■ common name: Flowerpot Corals (20 species)
 ■ colonies massive, hemispherical or columnar



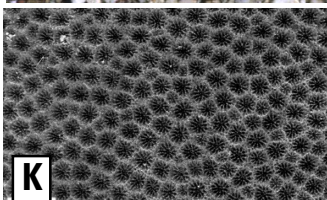
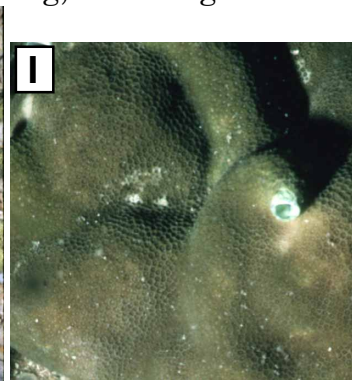
- A) polyps fleshy, 24 long tentacles
 C,E) tentacles extended day and night
 B,D,F,G) tentacles retract if disturbed

A-F) cerioid growth form

E) round porous corallites, 2-6mm diameter; 24 septa



- Porites* ■ common name: Jeweled Finger Worm; Christmas Tree Worm Coral (32 species)
 ■ colonies massive, encrusting, branching or foliaceous



H-M) corallites small, pore-shaped, <4 mm diameter

J) colonies resemble *Montipora*; however, *Porites* corallites have obvious septa

L-M) tentacles retracted during the day; expanded tentacles are small

- One of the most common massive and branching coral taxa found in the IndoPacific